

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 9-17 were appealed. In the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated July 31, 2007, the Board affirmed the rejections of claims 1-4, 10-12, and 14-17, and reversed the rejection in the case of claims 9 and 13. Applicants do not elect to reopen prosecution or request rehearing with respect to the new ground of rejection.

By this amendment, applicants amend claims 1 and 12; cancel claims 9, 13, 16, and 17; and add new claims 18-20. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, and claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13. Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled.


Applicants appreciate the time taken by Supervisory Patent Examiner Stephen Hong on September 27, 2007. Applicants and Mr. Hong discussed post-appeal procedure. Mr. Hong suggested that claim 12 be revised to recite the language being added to the preamble, and also suggested that it would be possible to file additional claims that include structural language. This language is being inserted into a new claim 18, which is otherwise similar to claim 12. Claims 19 and 20 are patentable at least for the same reasons as claim 18.

All claims should now be in condition for allowance and accordingly a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees now required to maintain the pendency of the application, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

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Respectfully submitted,

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